

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing molten iron, comprising:
producing reducing material of mixed hot fine direct reduced iron and calcined additives, the reducing material being produced from multiple fluidized beds;
charging the reducing material to at least one pair of roller presses;
roll pressing the reducing material through the at least one pair of roller presses to produce continuous compacted material having lumped portions adjacent to each other and concave grooves formed between the lumped portions on pressed surfaces;
crushing the compacted material to have irregular shapes;
subsequently charging the crushed compacted material with irregular shapes to a coal packed bed; and
supplying oxygen to the coal packed bed to manufacture molten iron,
wherein the lumped portions are continuously formed on the pressed surfaces along an axial direction of the at least one pair of roller presses,
wherein the pressed surfaces comprise first and second pressed surfaces opposing each other and the lumped portions comprise first and second lumped portions formed on the first and second surfaces, respectively, and,
wherein, when viewed from a direction perpendicular to a plane centered between the first pressed surface and the second pressed surface:
 - (i) the first and second lumped portions partially overlap each other; and
 - (ii) the concave grooves are unaligned on the opposing first and second pressed surfaces.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising charging the reducing material in two slanted directions at acute angles to a direction perpendicular to the at least one pair of roller presses.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the compacted material has a thickness of 3 mm to 30 mm and a density of 3.5 tons/m³ to 4.2 tons/m³.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the crushed compacted material has an average grain size of 50 mm or less.
5. (Canceled)